

**Regular Meeting  
Menominee Language and Culture Code Commission  
June 8, 2010 @ 1:00 pm  
MLCCC LaMotte Lake Site**

1. Opening Prayer was said by Warren Wilber Sr.
2. Chairman Wilber called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Roll call was taken with a quorum present. MEMBERS PRESENT: Warren Wilber Sr., Elizabeth Arnold, Marie Floring, Margaret LaRock-Mott, Davey Jean Reiter, Margaret Snow, Joey Awonohopay, Sherri LaChapelle, and Dr. Verna Fowler. MEMBERS ABSENT: none. ALSO PRESENT: Doug Medin, John Reiter, Ben Grignon, Ron Corn Jr., John Teller, Chris Caldwell, John Reiter, Karen Washinawatok (Director), Lindzey Grall (Legal Services), Natasha Miller (recorder).
3. Approval of Minutes dated April 13, 2010-Regular.

Page one –John Reiter was added twice in roll call one of his names was deleted from the record.

Under item number 3 approval of minutes “changes” was changed to “changed” and “to” was changed to “too”.

Second Page under paragraph three “nation” was changed to “national”. In paragraph five Waukau was added after Ron.

Page 4 under agenda item 9 Directors Report an “s” was added after student and it was requested that the acronym REESE should be spelled out.

**Motion was made by Margaret Snow to approve the minutes with corrections. Second was by Elizabeth Arnold. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 8-for, 0-opposed, 0-abstentions, and 0-absent.**

4. Informational.

No information was given.

5. Integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Western Science for Fire Management update – Chris Caldwell.

This agenda item was skipped until Chris Caldwell was present.

6. Diminutives in Bloomfield’s *Menomini Language*: Discussion / Action.

Monica Macaulay was not present at the meeting for discussion.

**Motion was made by Dr. Fowler to table agenda item number 6. Second was by Margaret Snow. All those in favor signify by saying. Motion carried: 8-for, 0-opposed, 0-abstentions, and 0-absent.**

7. NSF Cross Cultural Publication: Discussion / Action.

Doug Median stated this research Publication was done to show how species relate to each other and the difference on how Menominee children and European children relate to the environment when it comes to science.

Dr. Fowler questioned if all the children in the study were Menominee.

Doug Medin stated that the research was done on the students at the Menominee Tribal School.

Joey Awonohopay informed the Commission that 2% of the students at Tribal School are non-native or non-enrolled.

It was suggested that a note be put in the research on generalization that some subjects may not be Menominee.

Ronald Corn Jr. suggested to reference in the study the percentage of enrolled Menominee and non Menominee students.

Dr. Median was willing to add the reference.

**Motion was made by Elizabeth Arnold to approve the NSF Cross Cultural Publication with changes. Second was by Davey Jean Reiter. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 8-for, 0-opposed, 0-abstentions, and 0-absent.**

5. Integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Western Science for Fire Management Update – Chris Caldwell.

This was Christopher Caldwell's second time coming to the Commission. The first time he came he brought two proposals, the first to bring a national symposium to the reservation and the second was to have a "Fire on the Land" project. He stated the first proposal fell through, but they still are interested in the Fire on the Land project.

He brought forward today a study by Benjamin Sands and Marc Adams from the University of Pennsylvania titled, "a 184 year history of fire and fire suppression impacts on pine and oak forests of Menominee County, Wisconsin". The study in the packet was a condensed version and needed Menominee Language and Culture Commission approval for publication.

Dr. Fowler commented that for what the Menominee Restoration Committee has done for the Menominee people she wanted the glaring error that read Menominee County changed to Menominee Indian Reservation. Menominee County is less than 2 percent of the reservation and she stated she could not give up our forest to Menominee County.

Davey Jean Reiter brought up her comment from the last meeting in regards to offering prayers before a burn takes place. She questioned if Dave Grignon was consulted on the issue.

Chris Caldwell stated that he brought the comment forward and a prayer will be offered at the beginning of the season.

Dr. Fowler also commented that she would like to see the work the Menominee people did acknowledged in the document.

Elizabeth Arnold commented in the document it spoke about Chiefs. She questioned if it was only Chief Oshkosh and if it was she thought his name should be used.

The Commission requested from Chris he make the changes and bring the final document back to the Commission for review.

8. Review of Menominee Language and Culture Code Commission Budget – Sinking Fund.

The Commission invited Ronald Corn Jr. to this meeting to discuss the sinking fund that needs to be established per the Memorandum of Agreement between the Commission, Mawaw Ceseneyah, and the Menominee Tribe.

Ronald Corn and Ben Grignon were present on behalf of Mawaw Ceseneyah. Ronald Corn stated that if Mawaw Ceseneyah is required to contribute to the sinking fund then they would need time to raise the funds. They are not a 501 (c) (3) status and work off of donations and money out of their own pockets. Ron had with him a copy of the MOU and read the section to the Commission regarding the sinking fund.

Dr. Fowler commented that according to what was read it sounds like the Commission is responsible for the sinking fund.

Suggestion was made by Margaret Snow that a list be created that outlines the responsibilities of both Mawaw Ceseneyah and the Commission.

John Teller commented that Mawaw Ceseneyah is here to help the young people. He stated that he believes something should be in place that determines who is responsible for what. The two bodies need to come together to make the place beautiful.

Suggestion was made to invite Jeremy Weso to the next Commission meeting to clarify the MOA and answer any questions they may have.

**Motion was made by Dr. Fowler to have the Executive Director of the Menominee Language and Culture Commission and the Director Mawaw Ceseneyah meet and make recommendations on this will be set up and how they will work together and present it at the next meeting. Second was by Marie Floring. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 7-for, 0-opposed, 1-abstention (Awonohopay), and 0-absent.**

9. Amendments to Ordinance # 96-22- Menominee Language and Culture Code:  
Discussion / Action.

**Motion was made by Margaret Snow to table item number 9 Amendments to Ordinance 96-22 Menominee Language and Culture Code discussion and action and set a special meeting. Second was by Dr. Fowler. All those in favor signify by saying. Motion carried: 8-for, 0-opposed, 0-abstentions, and 0-absent.**

A special meeting was set up for June 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. with the only agenda item being Amendments to the Ordinance.

10. Lifetime Certification for Language Teachers: Discussion / Action

Sherri LaChapelle stated that there are individuals here that deserve the lifetime certificates and shouldn't have to keep getting certified every five years. She would like to see some type of criteria such as mentoring duties developed to be put in place so the certifications can be given.

Karen Washinawatok stated a curriculum is in place as far as grade levels that still needs to be approved by the Commission. This will allow the students to be some what fluent by the time they are out of high school. It does require the teachers to be fluent as well.

Margaret Snow suggested that when Marie can't sit on the tests that John Teller and Rose Wayka be called.

Chairman Wilber stated that there are no lifetime certifications in place and some type of criteria needs to be set for future generations down the line. This is why this subject was put on the agenda.

Joey Awonohopay commented that once you go through you first, third, and fifth year provisional you should be able to test after that without a study guide and be able to test on any type of notice. He also stated that he had no disrespect toward individuals with degrees but he felt it should be solely based on your speaking ability.

Dr. Fowler suggested for a lifetime certification that an individual should be able to have a 15 to 20 minute conversation with fluent speakers and allow them to vote if they deserve the certification.

Ronald Corn Jr. stated that the language tables are not development orientated and does not expand on the teacher's ability. As far as the lifetime certification he does not agree with it and does not really care to have one. If the tests were designed to have teachers work harder than it would be a good idea. Individuals who do have lifetime certifications have them for a reason, he asked how and why they have them. He also suggested a dissertation based on what you know regarding the Menominee language, culture, and history, because all we are doing is selling our teachers short.

John Teller commented that he has three certifications the first one from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to be a school teacher. The second one is from DPI in Native Language and you pay a \$100 fee. The third one is the lifetime certification from the Menominee Language and Culture Commission. He stated that he was given this for his years in the classroom and for his above average speaking ability.

Alan Caldwell developed ideas on certifications maybe he could looked upon for suggestions.

Discussion was made to have a separate subcommittee involving Sherri LaChapelle, Joey Awonohopay, Ron Corn Jr., and Alan Caldwell to develop criteria and a system for the language teachers and bring back the recommendations in the next few months.

Suggestion was made to just have Sherri, Joey, and Ron Corn for now and outside individuals can be invited for discussion and recommendations at a volunteer basis.

**Motion was made by Elizabeth Arnold to develop a subcommittee of Sherri, Joey, and Ronald Corn to meet together and bring back to the Menominee Language and Culture Commission their recommendations for lifetime certifications. Second was by Joey Awonohopay. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 7-for, 0-opposed, 0-abstentions, and 1-absent (Fowler).**

#### 11. Director's Report.

Karen Washinawatok discussed her Director's report with the Commission. She highlighted on the Native Aspirations Community Meeting that she attended and received a certificate. She explained in her report that an Archivist from the University of Green Bay was funded through the National Historical Public & Records Commission and Dr. Macualay and Dr. Hermes met with the teachers to discuss language revitalization and software.

12. Other Business.

Sherri LaChapelle stated that John Teller was requesting a key for the building to have access for the language tables.

Karen Washinawatok stated that according to the MOA the only ones who can have a key or access to the building are Ron Corn and herself.

13. Adjournment.

**Motion made by Margaret Snow to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Sherri LaChapelle. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 4-for, 0-opposed, 0-abstentions, and 2-absent (Awonohopay and Fowler).**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Natasha Miller, Transcriber/Recorder  
Recording Clerk – Receptionist, Chairman's Office